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Major News Releases and Speeches

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Speeches

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Remarks prepared for delivery by Mary C. Jarratt, Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services, before the National Cattlemen's Association, San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 1, 1982

I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to speak to the National Cattlemen's Association. Like many other producer groups, your association has been hard at work trying to ensure that Americans will continue to have the most varied, nutritious and affordable food supply on earth.

My job as assistant secretary for food and consumer services within the U.S. Department of Agriculture relates to consumers, to the food stamp and other feeding programs, and to nutrition information. I also enjoy working very closely with the Extension Service, which has the major responsibility for education. Before moving on to the food programs, markets, grading and other issues of more direct concern to you as cattlemen, let me discuss how we form nutrition policy within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA Philosophy

We have a philosophy, which views nutrition information and education as closely linked to American agriculture. In September Secretary John Block spoke to the American Dietetic Association. Here's what he emphasized:

"Good nutrition—the health of people all over the world—is important to American agriculture. Likewise, a productive, reliable agriculture is important to nutritional efforts."

Nutrition and agriculture are two sides of the same coin. You cannot have well-fed people unless you have an agriculture with farms and businesses that produce and distribute food effectively and economically.

USDA-Lead Agency in Nutrition

USDA nutrition activities are a matter of both law and long-standing tradition. Historically, USDA's role in human nutrition education goes

back to 1914, when the cooperative extension program was established. Agricultural research started in the late 1800's.

The Food and Agricultural Act of 1977 sets USDA's role in food and nutrition sciences. It directs the secretary of agriculture to establish (and I quote), "Research into food and human nutrition as a separate and distinct mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture..." (P.L. 95-113, Section 1423(a). We have in the past and intend to continue this separate and distinct mission in the area of nutrition at USDA.

Congress has named the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the lead agency within the Federal government for nutrition policy. It is essential for agriculture, as well as for nutrition programs, that USDA continue to exercise prime responsibility for nutrition information and education. And I promise you today that under this administration, nutrition programs will benefit from the full consideration of views both from agricultural producers and from consumers.

This is both appropriate and to the advantage of producers because it is in the U.S. Department of Agriculture that producers have a place to speak and a place to be heard. Other federal agencies are concerned with human diseases and health threats. Our role is different—we have a concern for healthy people and keeping them that way. The same department that attends to the interests of those who provide food to maintain human health is best able to provide the information people need for nutritious diets.

Having nutrition research, information and education in the same department that deals with food producers, processors and distributors encourages objectivity in nutrition policy. Wide sources of information and opinion are available within USDA.

Policy Development

The Reagan administration is striving to make sure that both producers and consumers get representation and careful consideration as the U.S. Department of Agriculture develops policy. To accomplish this, Secretary Block has established a Policy and Coordination Council. I serve on this council, along with the other USDA Under and Assistant Secretaries. The council considers major department policies including those for nutrition. Thus viewpoints from all sides come into play right at the top.

USDA's Policy and Coordinating Council is backed by a system of committees and task forces covering such diverse matters as sodium, consumer affairs, and publications to assure that Secretary Block is fully informed. And the council also feeds important concerns and problems right into the White House.

Reorganization

Along with creating a new policy council, we've reorganized the U.S. Department of Agriculture, again striving for objectivity. Cattlemen, along with others, should be seeing some significant improvement in the way the department delivers services.

We've placed food safety questions under the assistant secretary who also handles inspection activities. (I think you know Bill McMillan.) This change focuses the natural concern of conscientious producers and processors on food safety and health, and it encourages the cooperation of industry in achieving these goals.

We've pulled together the basic research functions of USDA and placed them in the Agricultural Research Service. Under this arrangement those who do research in human nutrition and whose research is oriented toward increasing and improving production can benefit from each others' cooperation.

Under my jurisdiction is the Human Nutrition Information Service which conducts research on food consumption patterns and the nutrient content of foods. The results of our studies provide valuable data to industry as well as consumers. Also, in my area are the domestic food programs—food stamps, school lunch and other feeding programs—all administered by the Food and Nutrition Service. In addition, the department's consumer advisor reports to me. These three agencies are links between producers of food and consumers.

Food Programs

This administration is working hard to improve the management of programs and thereby moderate program costs. Our efforts are largely aimed at refocusing the food programs toward their original goal of providing nutrition to those most in need while controlling waste, fraud and abuse.

Despite some curtailment of the growth of food programs, they remain a large and important market for food. Together, the food stamp, school lunch and other child nutrition programs serve some 40 million people. This fiscal year, approximately two-thirds of USDA's expenditures were spent on federal feeding programs. This amount, added to the resources put in by state and local people, adds up to a $19.5 billion market for food.

Schools, when asked to name their preferences among protein items offered through the federal commodity distribution program, invariably put beef at the top of the list. Because of this strong demand, the department makes every effort to buy beef for school lunch and other child feeding programs whenever market conditions permit. This year will see the largest federal beef purchase in five years. All told, we expect to spend 36 percent of the funds alloted for surplus removal to buy frozen ground beef. This represents around 102 million pounds of beef, double the amount the department bought last year. As a result 107,000 steers, each weighing 1,000 pounds, will be removed from the market this year.

Another subject of great concern to you is beef grading standards. The National Cattlemen's Association last year proposed changing USDA's grading system to allow for more efficiency at the producer level while producing leaner beef. The department also considered proposals submitted by 19 groups in coming up with our proposal which is now out for comment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's response is a good example of the objective attitude the Reagan Administration is taking. We are not against consumers. We are not against producers. But we are for the American people and agriculture as a whole by striving to reach decisions based on the best knowledge available.

Dietary Guidelines

Some of you may recall hearing reports that the secretary announced the continued publication of the Dietary Guidelines. We received several calls and letters concerning that report, since a number of agricultural organizations had questioned certain portions of that publication. I would like to use this opportunity to set one thing straight.

The secretary did announce that we would not rescind publication of the Dietary Guidelines. But something else was stated at the time of that announcement. He said the department would be updating the guidelines to reflect current scientific knowledge. In other words, I can assure you that once our current supply is exhausted, the guidelines will be reviewed line by line before they are reprinted. This is a research based publication and review will be based on the best available scientific evidence. We are in the process of activating the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Group. This group will review comments received about the Dietary Guidelines and make recommendations on appropriate changes.

Consumer Information

As you know, we are seeing an increasing number of consumers who demand information regarding nutrition and diet. A few weeks ago, while looking at the best seller list of non-fiction books, I was amazed to see that four of the top ten publications were diet related. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a responsibility to provide sound information on which Americans can base decisions. Similarly, American industry and producers of food cannot afford to ignore the fact that American consumers are concerned with what they eat.

This leaves a great deal of room for creative marketing, and you in the meat industry have a good story to tell. USDA, now as for decades past, recognizes meat as an important component of a nutritious diet. It continues to be prominent in the department's Daily Food Guide and meal patterns for school feeding. These guides, now as previously, emphasize the lean part of meat because this part provides most of the nutrients.

Overall, meat makes a substantial nutritional contribution to the U.S. diet. In 1980, it provided one-fourth or more of 7 of the 13 nutrients studied. Furthermore, 3 of the nutrients found in meat—zinc, iron, and vitamin B-6—are nutrients which are low in many peoples' diets. Meat, and especially beef, is an excellent source of dietary iron.

Recently, the American Meat Institute stated that the meat industry recognizes its responsibility to stimulate consumer demand for meat. A multi-million dollar promotion campaign was launched to reinforce fresh and processed meat as a nutritional, economical and convenient

staple of the American diet. There is a proven market for producers with imagination—and I know the National Cattlemen's Association and other kindred organizations will be making similar efforts to provide assistance to retailers and consumers regarding the processing, cutting, packaging, storing and preparing of beef.

Clearly you have a good product. USDA has in the past and will continue to recognize the valuable role meat plays in the American diet.

In closing, let me say that my door is always open. I very much hope you will help me do my job by letting me know your suggestions and concerns.

Thank You.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

USDA ANNOUNCES 1982 WHEAT PROGRAM PROVISIONS

KANSAS CITY, MO., Jan. 29—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today implemented and outlined the provisions for a voluntary 15 percent acreage reduction program for the 1982 wheat crop. He also said USDA would allow immediate entry of the 1982 crop into the farmer-owned grain reserve.

To become eligible for government price support loans, target price protection and the farmer-owned reserve program, farmers must reduce their plantings 15 percent from an established base. No direct payments will be made for the acreage reduction.

The target price for 1982 wheat will be $4.05 per bushel. Loan rates will be $3.55 per bushel for grain placed under the regular loan program and $4.00 per bushel for 1982-crop wheat entered into the farmer-owned reserve.

Farmers can enter the 1982 crop immediately into the reserve without waiting for their regular loans to mature. USDA storage payments will be 26 1/2 cents per bushel for wheat placed in the reserve. Wheat will be released from the reserve when the average price received by farmers reaches $4.65 per bushel.

Block said U.S. wheat supplies are 14 percent above last year and next June's carryover is expected to be nearly 1 billion bushels. This is the result of two successive record U.S. wheat crops and a record-setting 1981 world harvest. Block said the reduced acreage program—coupled with an aggressive export program—will strengthen prices by reducing the 1982-83 marketing year supplies.

Participating farmers must reduce their acreage of wheat planted for harvest by at least 15 percent from an established wheat base. Generally, the base will be the higher of either the 1981 wheat acreage or the average of the 1980-81 wheat acreages. However, for farms that have been following a definite crop rotation pattern, the base will reflect such rotations.

The acreage taken from production must be devoted to conservation uses. For example, a farmer with a 1981 planted acreage of 100 acres

must plant no more than 85 acres of wheat for 1982 harvest, for program eligibility. The remaining 15 acres (17.65 percent of 85 acres) must be devoted to conservation.

If the farmer plants fewer than the permitted 85 acres, he or she will be permitted to devote fewer acres to conservation. For example, if only 50 acres are planted, only 8.8 acres (17.65 percent of 50) will have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation must be eligible cropland protected from wind and water erosion. Acreage which has already been planted to wheat, and then designated as reduced acreage, may be cut for hay or grazed.

Otherwise, acreage designated to meet the conservation requirement may not be mechanically harvested and grazing will not be permitted during the six principal growing months. No payments will be made for land devoted to conservation.

Neither offsetting compliance nor cross compliance will be required. This means that farmers owning or operating more than one farm will not be required to participate on all farms in order to obtain program benefits on participating farms. Also, participation in the wheat program is not required to qualify for program benefits on other crops grown on the farm.

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REDUCED ACREAGE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR 1982 FEED GRAINS

KANSAS CITY, MO., Jan. 29—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced a voluntary 10 percent reduced acreage program for 1982-crop feed grains. He also announced that 1982 feed grains may be entered immediately into the farmer-owned reserve.

"This action will strengthen feed grain prices by reducing supplies for the 1982-83 marketing year," Block said. Participants will be required to devote the reduced acreage to conservation uses, he said.

Block said a number of market factors, including the record 1981 U.S. corn harvest of 8.2 billion bushels and instability in the export market, make the reduced acreage program advisable. Feed grain

supplies are about 13 percent above last year. Corn carryover at the beginning of the next marketing year (Oct. 1, 1982) could be around 2 billion bushels, the largest since 1960.

Only those who participate will be eligible for program benefits such as target price protection and Commodity Credit Corporation commodity loans.

Participating farmers must reduce their acreage planted to feed grains (barley, corn, oats, sorghum) by at least 10 percent from the established feed grain bases. Two bases will be established—one for corn and sorghum, the second for barley and oats. Generally, the bases will be the higher of the 1981 base acreage or the average of the 1980-81 base acreages. However, for farms that have been following a definite rotation pattern, the bases will reflect such rotations.

Participating producers will receive the following target price (per bushel) protection: corn, $2.70; sorghum, $2.60; barley, $2.60; oats, $1.50. Participants will be eligible for the following CCC loan rates: corn, $2.55; sorghum, $2.42; barley, $2.08; oats, $1.31.

Here is an example of how the programs will work. A farmer with a base of 100 acres must plant no more than 90 acres of feed grains for 1982 harvest. The 10 acres reduced (11.11 percent of 90 acres) must be devoted to a conservation use. Farmers planting less than the full 90 acres to feed grains would be permitted to devote fewer acres to conservation. If only 50 acres were planted, only 5.55 acres (11.11 percent of 50) would have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation uses must be eligible cropland and protected from wind and water erosion. The land may not be mechanically harvested. Farmers will be permitted to graze this acreage, except during the six principal growing months.

Neither offsetting compliance nor cross compliance is a requirement under this program. This means that farmers owning or operating more than one farm will not be required to participate on all farms in order to obtain program benefits on participating farms. Also, participation in the feed grain program is not required to qualify for program benefits on other crops grown on the farm.

Block said that 1982 feed grain placed under CCC loan would be eligible for immediate entry into the farmer-owned grain reserve at loan levels higher than for regular CCC loans. The reserve loan rates per

bushel will be: corn, $2.90; sorghum, $2.75; barley, $2.37; oats, $1.49. Market price trigger levels at which farmers may take their grain out of the reserve without penalty will be: corn, $3.25; sorghum, $3.10; barley, $2.65; oats, $1.65.

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UPLAND COTTON ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

KANSAS CITY, MO., Jan. 29—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced a 15 percent acreage reduction program for 1982-crop upland cotton.

The reduced acreage must be devoted to conservation uses, Block said. Participation is voluntary, but producers must take part to be eligible for target price protection and Commodity Credit Corporation loans.

The 1982 target price is 71 cents per pound and the loan rate 57.08 cents per pound. The CCC loan rate applies to strict low middling upland cotton 1-1/16-inch, 3.5 through 4.9 micronaire, at average U.S. location.

When an acreage reduction program is in effect, legislation provides that the national program acreage, the allocation factor and the voluntary reduction provisions are not applicable.

U.S. cotton production was 15.5 million bales in 1981, the largest production since 1953, compared to 11.0 million bales in 1980. Carryover into the next marketing year is expected to more than double. Carryin last Aug. 1 was 2.6 million bales. The Aug. 1, 1982 carryin is predicted to be 5.4 million bales.

Participating farmers must reduce their 1982 acreage of upland cotton by at least 15 percent from their established cotton acreage base. Generally, the base will be the higher of the 1981 cotton acreage or the average of the 1980-81 cotton acreages. However, for farms that have been following a definite rotation pattern, the base will reflect such rotations.

For example, a farmer with an acreage base of 100 acres must plant no more than 85 acres of cotton for 1982 harvest, for program

eligibility. The 15 acres reduced (17.65 percent of 85 acres) must be devoted to a conservation use. Farmers planting fewer than the permitted 85 acres to cotton would be allowed to devote fewer acres to conservation. If only 50 acres were planted, only 8.8 acres (17.65 percent of 50) would have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation uses must be eligible cropland, protected from wind and water erosion, and may not be mechanically harvested. Farmers will be permitted to graze this acreage, except during the six principal growing months.

Neither offsetting compliance nor cross compliance is a requirement under this program. This means that farmers owning or operating more than one farm will not be required to participate on all farms in order to obtain program benefits on participating farms. Also, participation in the upland cotton program is not required to qualify for program benefits on other crops grown on the farm.

The extra long staple cotton loan rate for 1982 is 99.89 cents per pound, which is 175 percent of the 1982 upland cotton loan rate.

A recourse upland and extra long staple seed cotton loan program will again be offered in 1982. Recourse means the borrower is obligated to pay back the full dollar amount of the loan.

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1982 RICE REDUCED ACREAGE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY USDA

KANSAS CITY, MO., Jan. 29—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced a 15 percent acreage reduction program for 1982-crop rice.

Participation is voluntary, but only those producers who take part in the program will be eligible for benefits, Block said. Also, participants will be required to devote the reduced acreage to conservation uses.

U.S. rice production was at a record level in 1981 when 185 million hundredweight of rice was harvested, compared with 146 million hundredweight the previous year. The carryover on August 1982 is expected to total about 54 million hundredweight, compared with 17 million last Aug. 1.

Participating producers will be eligible for target price protection of $10.85 per hundredweight, and Commodity Credit Corporation loans on their rice at $8.14 per hundredweight. Participants must reduce their acreage planted to rice by at least 15 percent from their established rice base. Generally, the base will be the higher of the 1981 rice acreage or the average of the 1980-81 rice acreages. However, for farms that have been following a definite rotation pattern, the base will reflect such rotations.

For example, a farmer with an acreage base of 100 acres must plant no more than 85 acres of rice for 1982 harvest for program eligibility. The 15 acres reduced (17.65 percent of 85 acres) must be devoted to a conservation use. Farmers planting less than the full 85 acres to rice would be permitted to devote fewer acres to conservation. If only 50 acres were planted, only 8.8 acres (17.65 percent of 50) would have to go to conservation.

The land taken from production and devoted to conservation uses must be eligible cropland, protected from wind and water erosion, and may not be mechanically harvested. Farmers will be permitted to graze this acreage, except during the six principal growing months.

Neither offsetting compliance nor cross compliance is a requirement under this program. This means that farmers owning or operating more than one farm will not be required to participate on all farms in order to obtain program benefits on participating farms. Also, participation in the rice program is not required to qualify for program benefits on other crops grown on the farm.

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USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR DECEMBER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released its monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for December 1981.

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost and liberal.

Betty Peterkin, a home economist with the Human Nutrition Information Service, said the plans consist of foods that together provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and fixed at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Peterkin said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes and how much food is prepared at home.

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," she said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families with less money for food. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

Details of the four food plans are described in Home and Garden Bulletin No. 94, "Family Food Budgeting. . .for Good Meals and Good Nutrition," which may be purchased for $1.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR A WEEK IN DECEMBER 1981

	Plans			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-54 years)	$33.10	$42.60	$53.40	$63.70
Family of 2 (55 years and over)	29.80	38.10	47.10	56.00
Family of 4 with preschool children	47.10	59.90	74.70	89.10
Family of 4 with elementary school children	56.70	72.40	90.70	108.30
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	7.70	9.70	11.90	14.10

COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR A WEEK IN DECEMBER 1981 ***(Continued)***

	Plans Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal Liberal
3-5 years	9.30	11.50	14.30	17.10
6-8 years	11.80	15.00	18.70	22.40
9-11 years	14.80	18.70	23.50	28.00
Females:				
12-19 years	14.00	17.70	21.90	26.10
20-54 years	13.50	17.30	21.50	25.60
55 and over	12.30	15.70	19.30	22.80
Males:				
12-14 years	15.80	19.90	24.80	29.60
15-19 years	17.30	21.90	27.40	32.80
20-54 years	16.60	21.40	27.00	32.30
55 and over	14.80	18.90	23.50	28.10

To estimate your family food costs

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out five days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

—For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

—For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

—For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

—For a family of five or six persons, subtract 5 percent.

—For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

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CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE INCREASED TO 14 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Commodity Credit Corporation commodity and farm storage facility loans disbursed in February will have a 14 percent interest rate, Everett Rank, executive vice president of the corporation, announced today.

The new rate, up from 12.25 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in February, Rank said.

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1981-CROP UPLAND COTTON PRODUCERS TO RECEIVE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Eligible upland cotton farmers soon will receive an estimated $530 million in deficiency payments on their 1981 crop, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Deficiency payments are required under the 1981 upland cotton program because the average market price received by farmers during the 1981 calendar year was below the established target price of 70.87 cents per pound.

The 1981 national weighted average market price for upland cotton was 63.2 cents per pound; therefore, eligible producers will be paid 7.67 cents per pound for their 1981 crop. Deficiency payments will be based on 1981 cotton planted acreage times the payment yield for each farm as determined by ASCS.

The 1981 upland cotton crop totaled about 15.6 million bales or 7,509 million pounds. Deficiency payments will be made to upland cotton farmers who reported their 1981-crop acreage and filed an application for payment with their local ASCS office. Rank said the payment checks will be issued through local ASCS offices as soon as possible.

The final 1981 upland cotton national program acreage is 12.8 million acres and represents the number of acres of a crop needed to meet estimated demand and assure desirable carryover levels, Rank said.

The allocation factor for upland cotton is 93 percent and is computed by dividing the national program acreage for a crop by the estimated harvested acreage. Payments to producers who increased their 1981 planted acreage from the previous year will be reduced to reflect the allocation factor, Rank said.

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USDA TO PAY RICE FARMERS $22 MILLION IN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1981 CROP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Eligible rice producers will receive an estimated $22 million in rice deficiency payments for their 1981 crop, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Payments, at the rate of 28 cents per hundredweight, will go to approximately 25,000 producers, Rank said.

Deficiency payments are based on the difference between the 1981 rice target price of $10.68 per hundredweight and the national average price received by farmers during the first five months of the rice marketing year (Aug. 1 through Dec. 31, 1981).

The five-month average given Jan. 29 by the department in its agricultural prices report was $10.40 per hundredweight. The difference between the $10.40 price received and the $10.68 target price results in the 28-cent payment rate.

Deficiency payments will be issued by local offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Payment application forms and further information are available from these offices.

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USDA ANNOUNCES MARKETING QUOTAS FOR 1982-CROP BURLEY AND MINOR TOBACCOS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced a 1982 national marketing quota for burley tobacco of

681 million pounds and also announced acreage allotments for minor kinds of tobacco.

The burley quota is 3 percent above the 1981 quota. When adjustments for over and undermarketings are considered, effective farm quotas for 1982 burley are expected to total 789 million pounds, about 6 percent less than last year.

Burley tobacco is grown primarily in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

The 1982 acreage allotment for dark air-cured tobacco has been reduced 10 percent from the 1981 allotment, Block said. Allotments for cigar filler and binder (type 42-44 and 53-55) were reduced 20 percent; types 51-52 were reduced 15 percent.

The 1982 acreage allotments are as follows:

KIND	1982	1981
Virginia fire-cured (type 21)	9,430	9,576
Virginia sun-cured (type 37)	1,320	1,335
Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured (types 22-24)	26,353	26,345
Kentucky-Tennessee dark air-cured (types 35-36)	11,986	13,371
Cigar filler and binder (types 42-44 & 53-55)	15,194	19,048
Cigar binder (types 51-52)	3,223	33,675

In addition, separate referendums will be held for fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos during the period Feb. 22-26, by mail, to see whether these producers favor quotas for the next three marketing years.

Notices showing the 1982 allotments for individual farms will be mailed soon to farm operators by local county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees. The committees will also mail referendum ballots to all known producers of these kinds of tobacco. Any producer who does not receive a ballot may obtain one from the local ASCS office.

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GREAT PLAINS WIND EROSION DOWN SHARPLY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—Wind erosion damaged only about one-third as much land in the Great Plains during the last two months of 1981 as it did during the same period a year earlier.

Norman A. Berg, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, said today that reports from the 10-state plains area indicate wind damaged 390,474 acres (158,087 hectares), down from 1,143,245 acres (457,298 hectares) damaged during November and December 1980.

Berg said snow cover on the northern plains, along with adequate soil moisture and good fall wheat growth, kept damage down.

Of the land reported as damaged, 92 percent, 360,679 acres (146,024 hectares) was cropland; 5 percent, 19,670 acres (7,964 hectares), was rangeland; and 3 percent, 10,135 acres (4,103 hectares), was other land.

Texas, with 138,958 acres (56,258 hectares) damaged, accounted for 36 percent of the total. Low levels of protective residue were a major factor.

The southern plains states reported 51 percent of the damaged acreage.

Damages due to erosion, with 1980 comparisons, follow:

State	Counties Reporting	1981 Acres	1981 Hectares	1980 Acres	1980 Hectares
Montana	40	40,805	16,520	327,082	130,832
Nebraska	21	35,565	14,399	86,275	34,510
North Dakota	53	36,186	14,650	275,845	110,338
South Dakota	66	57,680	23,352	314,281	125,712
Wyoming	23	19,150	7,753	17,235	6,894
Colorado	37	19,620	7,943	16,920	6,768
Kansas	105	20,700	8,381	14,150	5,660
New Mexico	19	4,950	2,004	9,655	3,862
Oklahoma	30	16,860	6,826	22,220	8,888

Table to be Continued

State	Counties Reporting	1981 Acres	1981 Hectares	1980 Acres	1980 Hectares
Texas	147	138,958	56,258	59,582	23,833
TOTAL	541	390,474	158,087	1,143,245	457,298

Wind also destroyed crops or cover on 33,165 additional acres (13,427 hectares) of land not damaged.Of this, 51 percent, 17,060 acres (6,907 hectares), was in the northern plains.

The Soil Conservation Service each year compiles wind erosion reports covering seven months—November through May—using data supplied by 541 counties in the 10 Great Plains states.

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CONNECTICUT FIRM RECALLS CORNED BEEF

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3—A Bloomfield, Conn., company is voluntarily recalling cooked corned beef after U.S. Department of Agriculture tests confirmed the presence of salmonella, a food poisoning organism.

According to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, the salmonella was discovered when USDA tested samples of Mosey's Cooked Corned Beef taken during a routine inspection at Mosey's Corned Beef, Inc., in Bloomfield, Conn. Corned and roast beef samples from other plants are also being analyzed by the agency as part of a monitoring program.

"No cases of illness from eating corned beef have been reported," Houston said. "This precautionary recall was initiated because some 130,000 pounds of potentially contaminated product have been distributed to delicatessens and similar retail outlets in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia and Vermont."

The suspect meat was produced between Jan. 8 and Feb. 1. Consumers who believe they may have purchased some of the product

The suspect meat was produced between Jan. 8 and Feb. 1. Consumers who believe they may have purchased some of the product should contact the store where they bought it, Houston said.

"The company has been cooperative throughout our investigation," Houston said. Mosey's is notifying its distributors to return the suspect corned beef. The firm could reprocess the meat to destroy the salmonella organisms and make the product safe to eat, he said.

The salmonella organism causes salmonellosis, a foodborne illness that can cause people to be hospitalized. The organism can be prevented by proper handling and destroyed by thorough cooking.

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USDA SUBMITS TOBACCO PROGRAM REPORT TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has released details of a report to Congress which recommended methods for achieving a no-net-cost tobacco program.

The report, submitted to Congress Jan. 29, was in response to a provision of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 that required USDA to carry out the tobacco price support and production adjustment program at no net cost to taxpayers. This does not include administrative expenses necessary for implementation of the program, Block said.

To achieve that objective, USDA was required to take, by January 1982, whatever administrative actions necessary within its existing authority. If such actions alone would not achieve a no net cost program, USDA was required to recommend to the Congress supplemental legislation by January 1982.

The report describes two administrative actions to be taken beginning with the 1982 crop.

One action would remove the current limitation on the amount of money tobacco producer associations may deduct from price support advances made to producers. The deduction, previously limited to one dollar per hundred pounds of producer tobacco consigned to the associations, is withheld by the associations to help meet their

administrative costs. If the deduction did not completely cover an association's administrative expenses, the associations borrow the difference from CCC.

Block said removing the limitation will reduce the need to borrow additional amounts from CCC to cover these costs.

Further details on removing the limitation soon will appear as a proposed rule in the Federal Register, with a 60-day period for the public to comment on the rule.

Under the other administrative action, the net gains realized by a tobacco producer association from the sale of one crop of tobacco would be available to offset losses incurred by the association on other crops.

Net gains are realized by a tobacco producer association when one crop of tobacco pledged as security for a CCC price support loan is sold for more than the amount needed to fully repay the price support loan, plus accrued interest.

Current loan agreements between CCC and producer associations specify that all net gains realized from the sale of loan tobacco from each crop year must be distributed to producers by the associations unless another disposition is requested by an association and approved by CCC.

Procedures for implementing these administrative actions will be developed in consultation with the tobacco producer associations through which CCC makes price support available to producers under loan agreements with CCC.

Implementation of these administrative actions will substantially reduce the cost of the program to taxpayers, but will not assure a no net cost tobacco program, Block said. For that reason, USDA included in its report to Congress recommendations for legislation which would:

1) Establish a fee which would be collected from every producer marketing tobacco. This fee would be used to offset losses to CCC arising under the tobacco price support loan program.

2) Authorize USDA to adjust, under certain circumstances, price support levels for the various kinds of tobacco. Block said the inflexible support formula mandated by current law does not afford discretion to adjust price price support levels to compensate for changing economic and marketing conditions.

"The administrative actions, along with the proposed legislative recommendations, will, we feel, achieve the congressional mandate for achieving a no net cost tobacco program," Block said.

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USDA SETS HIGHER 1982 RYE LOAN RATE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Rye producers will receive $2.17 per bushel for placing their 1982 crop under loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

According to CCC executive vice president Everett Rank, the 1982 loan rate is 13 cents higher than the 1981 loan rate of $2.04 per bushel.

Loans are available through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

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SECRETARY BLOCK TO VISIT MEXICO FEB. 11 - 14

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block will meet Feb. 11-14 in Mexico with Mexican officials and U.S. agribusiness executives to discuss trade relations.

Since 1976, Mexico has been a market for at least $1 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products. In fiscal year 1981, Mexico bought more than $2.7 billion of these products.

Block will hold a news conference at 2 p.m. Feb. 11 at the San Diego, Calif., airport before leaving for Tijuana.

While in Tijuana, Block will participate in the joint U.S.-Mexican ceremony Feb. 11 with Mexican Minister of Agriculture Francisco Merino Rabago to declare three Mexican states free of screwworms following a joint eradiations effort between Mexico and the United States.

The signing ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. at the Club Campestre, Tijuana.

After the ceremony, Block will visit agricultural installations in Sonora state. He will then go to Mexico City to meet with the Mexican minister of commerce and U.S. agribusiness representatives.

These people will accompany Block to Mexico:

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture C.W. McMillan; administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Richard A. Smith; USDA press secretary John Ochs; and James Brock, Foreign Agricultural Service's Western Hemisphere area officer.

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FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION REDUCES SOME INTEREST RATES, RAISES OTHERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—The Farmers Home Administration, the rural credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has reduced some of its interest rates and increased others, Administrator Charles W. Shuman said today.

The rate for insured operating loans was reduced to 14.25 percent from 14.50 percent; limited resource operating loans were lowered to 11.25 percent from 11.50, and the limited resource loan rate was reduced to 6.625 percent from 7.

Shuman said the reductions were made because the interest rates are based on the cost to the U.S. Treasury of borrowing money, and short-term interest has been declining.

Rates for two other loan programs, which are based on the costs of comparable loans in the private market, were raised to 16 percent from 15 percent. Those were for annual production loans and operating adjustment loans under the disaster emergency program.

Other interest rates at the agency remain the same.

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